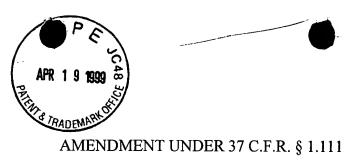
50435-015 (P2145/AES)



4/2 RECEIVEDO APR 26 1999 EDT.

Examiner: John J. Meyer

Art Unit: 2767

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: LI GONG, et al.

Serial No.: 08/883,636

Filing Date: June 26, 1997

For: LAYER-INDEPENDENT SECURITY FOR

COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

Hon. Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 10, 1998, please amend the above-referenced application as indicated hereinafter.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated hereinafter:

Aby At

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- 1. (Amended) A method for providing communication protocol-independent security for data transmitted between a first process, executing on a first network node, and a second process, executing on a second network node, wherein the first network node and the second network node each support at least one common communication protocol, the method comprising the steps of:
- a) establishing a communication channel between the first network node and the second network node;